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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Workers and Emergency Responders Train For Disease Outbreaks In Ebola Response Workshop

TWIN FALLS – Diseases once considered eradicated from United States are making a comeback. This year U.S. cities fought off more than 12 hundred cases of measles in 31 states. Idaho communities have also battled other infectious diseases, like tuberculosis and hepatitis A, in the last few months.

“We have access to some of the best medicine, the best medical practices, and some of the most stalwart people—but disease is tricky and can occasionally get through our defenses,” said Tanis Maxwell, South Central Public Health District Epidemiologist. “That’s why it’s important for us to plan and be prepared.”

On September 25th and 26th, South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is presenting a workshop to help prepare emergency responders, hospital staff, emergency managers, and other health workers for disease outbreaks in Idaho.

“This workshop will provide a great opportunity for community partners to come together and learn about best practices in managing infectious diseases as well as evaluate their current plans and strategies,” said Nelson Long, SCPHD Training and Exercise Coordinator.

Managing Infectious Diseases: "Hello Measles, My Old Friend" will include speakers from around the country, including the Washington county that battled several hundred cases of measles this spring. Speakers will discuss everything from the ugliest pathogens currently on medical radar to examples of effective community responses in recent outbreaks.

The workshop runs from 8:45 AM to 4:00 PM, at the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts building, room 119, in Twin Falls.

Media organizations are invited. Please contact Brianna Bodily, SCPHD Public Information Officer with questions and to RSVP at least 24 hours in advance: (208) 737-5985.